

-7-

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-40 have been pending in this application, of which claims 1-6, 10-15, 19-24, 28-33, and 37-40 have been rejected. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, claims 1-6, 10-15, 19-24, 28-33, and 37-40 are canceled by this Amendment. The Applicants will prosecute these claims in a continuation application.

Objected-to claims 7-9, 16-18, 25-27, and 34-36 have been rewritten to not depend on the rejected base claims. All claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Lyubashev  
Lyudmila Lubashev  
Registration No. 55,408  
Telephone: (978) 341-0036  
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133  
Dated: 6/23/04